



# cityNEWS



## HOME IMPROVEMENT BENEFITS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Golden Valley steps up its property maintenance program to help spot issues before they become problems.

**SEE PAGES 8-9**

Photo by John C. Niemi,  
*Views of the Valley 2013*

## INFLOW AND INFILTRATION PROGRESS REPORT

City's aggressive approach to fixing the problem shows positive results.

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## Bottineau LRT Update

### Large Project Means Long Process

Bit by bit, piece by piece, the plan comes together for the Bottineau Light Rail Transit set to travel out of downtown Minneapolis through Golden Valley along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Corridor.

It's a project of so many considerations, challenges, and possibilities that it will likely take at least three more years of planning before ground is broken for construction, says Jason Zimmerman, city planner.

"Right now, a whole bunch of stuff has to happen," he says. "The draft environmental impact study is scheduled to be released in April, followed by a public comment period, then a review by the Met Council, then we need to work through all the issues raised in the report."

Almost every step in the planning process must undergo this strict cycle of review.

After the planning stage, construction of the light rail will take at least another three years, for an optimistic completion date of 2020, Zimmerman says.

### Stations And Locations

The light rail will run through the northeast corner of Golden Valley and then into Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, where it will end north of Hwy 610. Over the summer, Golden Valley residents had two opportunities to learn more about the proposed Bottineau LRT and share their thoughts on the project.

There will be at least one station in Golden Valley, Zimmerman says. A consultant will work with the City Council-appointed Bottineau LRT Planning Advisory Committee to help plan specific details associated with the transit stops, such as the possibility of connected bike paths, walking paths, bike racks, station amenities like bathrooms, and adjacent land use.

### Health Impact Study

The environmental impact study draft, set to be released this spring, will address concerns about noise pollution, carbon emissions, and effects on nearby vegetation.



Meanwhile, the recently published "Hennepin County Bottineau Transitway Health Impact Assessment" contained some encouraging news about the project.

The report states that on average, nationally, people get 24 minutes of exercise per weekday just by walking to and from transit, promoting active living. The report also states that the addition of alternate transportation options will improve traffic safety.

"The station areas of the transitway could include improved environments for biking and walking, such as more crosswalks and paths," the health report states. "The Bottineau Transitway will improve access to Theodore Wirth Park with proposed station options near Golden Valley Road or Plymouth Avenue. Studies show that when people have access to parks they are more likely to be physically active."

The health report also highlights economic benefits: "The Bottineau Transitway could improve access to jobs for communities in the station areas. Increasing transit connections to jobs throughout the region expands people's options for employment. The light-rail line also encourages economic growth and more jobs in communities surrounding the transit stations."

### What's Next?

Hennepin County and Nexus Community Partners will engage communities along the Bottineau Transitway in tandem with station area planning and coordinate with the consultants chosen to carry out station area planning.

Questions about the Bottineau LRT? Contact City Planner Jason Zimmerman at 763-593-8099.

# Run The Valley Turns 20!

Plan now to join friends and neighbors April 12 for the 20th Anniversary of *Run the Valley*, one of Golden Valley's most popular events. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, the 10k race and 5k run and walk raises funds for organizations the benefit the community (see story below). In 2013, an unprecedented snowy race day drew 541 participants, 52 volunteers, and raised around \$13,585 (net).

## How To Register

- Online at [www.zapevent.com](http://www.zapevent.com) and [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) (additional fees apply)
- Download form from City website and submit by mail with payment to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426 or by fax (763-512-2344)
- In person at Brookview Community Center
- On race day, from 7–7:45 am at Brookview Community Center

Entry fee is \$25 by Feb 28, \$30 March 1–April 11 (by 3 pm), and \$40 on race day. Includes T-shirt, race number, and chip timing. Children 12 and under may register for \$15 when accompanied by an adult entry (youth fee includes T-shirt and race number only). To be eligible for a medal, chip timing must be used. T-shirt sizes guaranteed if registered by March 1. All proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Bassett Creek Dental, Golden Valley Community Foundation, and Liberty Carton, with in-kind services from Cable 12/Northwest Community TV and the City of Golden Valley. Other sponsors included

Al's Coffee, Chiquita Banana, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Great Glacier Water, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurants, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/) or call Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

*Carol Paschke won the 2014 logo design contest.*



## 2014 Run The Valley Saturday, April 12

- 7:45 am for 0.2K Kid's Fun Run
- 8 am for 10K race
- 8:10 am for 5K race
- 8:15 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed)

Start and finish at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S. Certified course runs through residential Golden Valley. Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks donated by area businesses.

## GVHSF Allocates \$40,500 To Human Services

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents, providing a total of \$1,336,020 in funding.

Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews requests and allocates funds raised by the GVHSF through various annual fundraisers such as April's Run the Valley and July's Golden Valley Golf Classic.

For 2014, the GVHSF allocated \$40,500 to eight local human service organizations: Canvas Health/Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Community Mediation (\$2,500), Greater Minneapo-

lis Crisis Nursery (\$3,000), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$7,500), PRISM (\$10,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,500), The Bridge for Youth (\$3,500), and Tree House (\$3,500).

For more information about GVHSF activities, events, and funding criteria, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php) or call 763-512-2345.



# RECYCLING RESOURCES FOR REMODELERS

If you're planning a remodeling project this year, consider the opportunity to go "green."

Using environmentally sound techniques in your remodel and properly disposing of construction waste is not as hard as it sounds. Along the way, it can make your home a healthier place to live and save you money in the long run.

## Construction

One way to remodel green is by using recycled or salvaged materials, but it can take longer to find what you need. Plan ahead and give yourself time to track down materials that can be reused. Check local salvage yards or online resources like Craigslist. A recent look at Craigslist for Minneapolis/St Paul under "For Sale—Materials" showed listings for whirlpool tubs, bathroom vanities, oak doors, a variety of hardwood flooring and cabinets, sinks, and fill dirt, to name a few. Some items are listed as "new."

Speed up the process by getting creative with your project. Got some leftover floorboards lying around your garage? Turn them into shelves. Use your imagination. Go to [thedailygreen.com](http://thedailygreen.com) for hundreds of reuse ideas for all sorts of household (and other) products.

You can also take advantage of Hennepin County's Choose To Reuse program at [www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse](http://www.hennepin.us/choosetoreuse), where you can get good deals on used products.

Since less construction means less waste, figure out ways to build around and within existing structures rather than tearing them down or building entirely new ones. By the same token, plan your building so its features will be easy to renovate, build around, or remove in the future. It helps to seek contractors who are already knowledgeable about building green.

If you're redoing your landscape, look for ways to manage water runoff (see story on page 5) and implement maintenance practices that help protect water quality.

## Disposal

A sometimes forgotten component of home improvement is how to dispose of debris, old appliances, and other remnants.

Hennepin County provides a multitude of disposal options in its "A to Z How To Get Rid of It" guide at [www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html](http://www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html).

Most building materials are not accepted at the Hennepin County drop-off sites. Contact your waste hauler regarding disposal of the following items: asphalt shingles, plastic, porcelain or fiberglass bathtubs, ceiling tiles, counter tops (stone, concrete, laminate, or wood), vinyl flooring installed after 1986, wood flooring, tile (ceramic, porcelain, or glass), sheetrock and drywall, wood and vinyl siding, toilets, and fiberglass, porcelain, and plastic sinks.

"Before starting a project, take the time to know your options for disposal," says Mark Ray, streets maintenance supervisor/recycling coordinator. "It will help you avoid potential delays or unexpected expenses."

For more information on building green, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/), then click on "Quick Links," scroll down to "Preventing waste and pollution," and click "green building." Another good resource is [www.planetreuse.com](http://www.planetreuse.com).



## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, May 31
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Fourth of July	Sat, July 5
New Year's 2015	Sat, Jan 3

### Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

*The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.*



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).



# Your Curb Is A Shoreline

## Proper Lawn Care Helps Protect Water Quality

You don't have to live on a lake or creek to make a difference in the quality of our local waterways. City streets are much like waterfront property—everything that rinses off your roof, yard, and driveway can eventually get to Bassett Creek and the Mississippi River through the City's storm water system under the streets. Depending upon where you live, this water may also flow through a pond, wetland, or lake.

How you manage your property has a significant impact on the water quality and the ecosystem of the larger surrounding area.

### Chemical Use

Chemicals are sometimes necessary for the health and beauty of your lawn, but if used incorrectly or too often they pose a threat to the environment and health. So before spraying your lawn with herbicides or fertilizer, be sure you're doing it properly:

- 1 Follow Instructions**—Following the instructions listed on the product is the best way to keep safe. If the directions say one ounce of chemical per one gallon of water, don't use two ounces thinking you'll get better and faster results.
- 2 Use the Right Chemical for the Specific Weed**—Research which herbicide works best for the type of plant you're dealing with. Use the wrong chemical and you'll end up using more than you have to, a practice that's hard on the environment and bad for your pocketbook.
- 3 Spot Spray**—Rather than spraying your entire yard, take a handheld water bottle and spray only those plants you want eradicated. This significantly cuts down the amount of chemical runoff while still keeping your lawn weed-free.

- 4 Do Not Spray On or Near Impervious Surfaces**—Treat your sidewalk and driveway as if they were a shoreline. What runs off of them ends up in our creeks and lakes. Spray all chemicals on their intended target.

- 5 Rinse Properly**—Do not dump remaining chemicals on a single spot on your lawn. They'll only drain into the storm sewer. Instead, dilute the chemicals by filling the container with water and spraying it back out over a large area. Do this three times to ensure a proper rinse with no runoff.

### Rain Gardens

A good way to help protect water quality is to install a rain garden in your yard using native plants that are well-suited to the location.

Rain gardens with native vegetation help filter out pollutants from water runoff, thereby improving the quality of storm water that drains into nearby streams and lakes.

Rain gardens should be placed in a low area or an area where water tends to run quickly after a rain or during snow melt.

The **Feb 23 Home Remodeling Fair** (see page 16) will have two seminars on landscaping to help you get started: "Whole Yard Makeover" and "Landscapes: Curb Appeal." In addition, the "Organic Lawn Care" seminar features environmentally friendly lawn care tips.

For more help, consider checking out the University of Minnesota's Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series at [www.sustland.umn.edu/](http://www.sustland.umn.edu/).

## A Word About Storm Drains



Each rainfall carries street litter, yard waste, excess lawn fertilizers and pesticides, residue from oil leaks and gas on streets and parking lots, and sediment from construction sites down the storm drains. In addition, each year people dump thousands of gallons of used oil, paint, antifreeze, and other wastes (including bagged and unbagged pet waste) into storm drains.

Many people are unaware that storm water is not treated before discharging into Golden Valley's water resources. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Dump nothing down a storm drain you wouldn't drink or swim in.
- Take care how you manage your lawn and landscaping (see story above).
- Pick up pet wastes.
- Keep the storm drain on your street clear of debris.
- Get involved in Golden Valley's storm drain adoption or stenciling program (see page 7).

# Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Youth

**Pre-School Playtime** (ages 1–5 with an adult)—Fri, 10–11:30 am through Mar 22, Brookview. \$2/time/child or \$15 for 10-time punch pass.

**Kids Club** (ages 3–5)—Mon/Wed, Feb 24–Apr 2 or Tues/Thurs, Feb 18–Mar 27, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$45 resident.

**First Steps In Musicland** (ages 18 months–5 years)—Tues, Feb 18–Mar 25, 2:30–3:15 pm, Brookview, \$49 resident

## Adult

**Ballroom Dancing For Beginners**—Sun, Mar 9–30, 4:30–6 pm, Brookview, \$50 resident, \$55 non-resident.

**Adult Summer Softball League**—Returning teams must register by Feb 13; new team registration opens Feb 14. Packets available on City website.

**Spring Softball Warm Up**—Men's Class C/D doubleheaders Mon/Wed, Apr 21 & 23 or Tues/Thurs, Apr 22 & 24. Schaper Park, \$130 resident.

## Seniors

**Coffee Talk**—Feb 26: "Emergency Services: Are You Prepared?" Mar 26: "How Fireproof Are You?" Both 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Register up to two days in advance.

**Blood Pressure Screening**—Feb 26 & Mar 26, 11–11:30 am, Brookview. Free.

**Money Matters**—Feb 20: "Loss of Privacy;" Mar 20: "Innovative, Creative and Cost Effective Funeral Preplanning." Both 10–11:15 am, Brookview. Donation for refreshments.

# Brookview To Offer Lawn Bowling Late Summer

While summer may still feel impossibly distant, it's not too soon to reserve a sun-soaked few hours playing Golden Valley's newest warm-weather activity: lawn bowling.

This August, six lawn bowling lanes will be opened to the public on the north side of the Brookview Community Center. Construction on the lanes began late last year.

"We were looking for new Brookview amenities for all ages," says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director. "Lawn bowling is something that can be played by 12-year-olds and 85-year-olds alike."

Lawn bowling is similar, though not identical, to bocce ball. It is played on large, rectangular greens divided into parallel playing strips.

There are a limited number of lawn bowling lanes in the Metro Area, Birno says, and where they can be found, such as Brit's Pub in Minneapolis, people line up to play and reserve their spots months, sometimes years, in advance.

City parks and recreation staff are preparing a system for league play that will commence in August. The seven-week Monday-through-Thursday league fee will be \$350; for the Saturday and Sunday morning league it will be \$250. For those who want to do lawn bowling as a family or social activity, hourly lawn bowling rental will be \$15 for residents and Brookview golf patrons; \$20 for non-residents.

Birno says these fees will help pay off the construction costs of the lawn bowling site in about five years, and any revenue beyond that will go back into the City and golf course budgets.

The new lawn bowling facility was planned and designed by Golden Valley parks and recreation staff. Once constructed, the lawn bowling lanes will be managed by the Brookview Golf Course and will be next to the golf course's food and beverage services.

Watch the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov) for updates about construction of the new lawn bowling green, leagues, and open bowling.



**Tai Chi For Health & Arthritis**—Taught by certified instructor. Tues, Feb 25–Apr 8, Brookview, \$45/resident. Basic: 8:30–9:30 am, Moving On (must have completed at least one session of Tai Chi): 9:35–10:35 am. Enhancement Class (add a second day of Tai Chi, all levels): Thurs, Feb 27–Apr 10, \$35/resident.

**For more information or to register,** call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



# City Honors Steward Of Water Quality

## David Hanson Served Watershed Commission For 15 Years



After Dave Hanson moved into his home on Sweeney Lake 40 years ago, he noticed algae blooms in the water. The lakeshore had historically been bombarded by development—railway stations, highways, houses, and businesses all around its perimeter—leading to erosion and other pollutant runoff.

Because of this, Hanson says, the lake saw a noticeable decrease in water quality over the years. So he set out to reverse the trend, and the solution he found was a bit unusual.

He asked his neighbors if they'd like to go in on purchasing lake aeration systems, cutting-edge technology Hanson had heard would mechanically mix more oxygen into the water, like the pumps you see in a fish aquarium, but almost as big as a water slide. A group of neighbors agreed to help fund the project. That was in 1973. The aeration systems continue pumping oxygen into the lake to this day. They can currently be seen poking up through the ice as they work year-round.

The water quality of the lake got better, Hanson says, and the project marked the beginning of a new passion for him—working to improve water quality in Golden Valley.

“Water quality means everything to these people who live around the lake,” Hanson says. “It’s why they’re here.”

When Hanson, 84, retired in 1996 as president of Fabcon Inc, a company he founded, he became a commissioner on the Bassett

Creek Watershed Management Commission and volunteered on behalf of Golden Valley’s water quality for the next 15 years.

Last December marked Hanson’s final month on the Commission. He was honored by the Golden Valley City Council with a resolution of “sincere and grateful appreciation” for his service.

“David has been very engaged in the work of the Commission over the past 15 years,” says Jeannine Clancy, public works director. “He has been a citizen advocate, working on behalf of the best interests of the citizens of Golden Valley. Surface water management issues can be complex, and when required, David would respectfully challenge others to find solutions to difficult problems.”

Among his achievements, Hanson is credited for:

- taking part in developing the City’s first surface water management plan
- working with MnDOT to ensure that Highway 100 construction had minimal environmental impact and included water quality treatment
- advocating for modifications to Schaper Park Pond to improve its sediment and phosphorus removal capabilities
- urging installation of the sediment skimmer now located at the Schaper pond outlet to Sweeney Lake
- educating citizens on the importance of water quality
- acting as a steward of Sweeney Lake and director of the Lake Association since 1970

Quality of water, Hanson says, is directly tied to the quality of the environment at large.

“It’s such a wonderful opportunity to have the north woods in the city,” he says. “It’s worth every effort to try to improve the condition of its lakes and rivers.”

## Get Involved

Golden Valley’s storm drain programs help prevent pollution from entering local surface water. They also increase awareness and remind citizens to protect water resources within their community and beyond (see page 5).

Volunteers who live near lakes, ponds, or streams can adopt storm drain inlets and outlets and monitor them for irregularities.

The City provides assistance. Volunteers can also stencil a fish symbol, combined with a “Dump No Waste” message, near storm drains that lead to a neighborhood pond, lake, or Bassett Creek. The City provides training and materials. For more information, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/storm-drain-adoption.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/storm-drain-adoption.php).





*New siding can improve a home's appearance.*

# Home Improvement Through Maintenance

## City Implementing Proactive Approach

For the last few years, the City of Golden Valley approached property maintenance issues on a complaint basis. If a neighbor complained about a violation, an inspector would check it out.

But a more proactive strategy would keep Golden Valley “ahead of the curb” when it comes to quality of housing and neighborly relations, says Dave Gustafson, fire and property maintenance specialist.

So, for the first time, the City is hiring a second property maintenance specialist who will help Gustafson look for issues and talk with residents about them before they become bigger problems.

“The main advantage of this approach,” Gustafson says, “is it will make the city a better place to live.”

“The hope is people will be encouraged to find and fix maintenance concerns well before an inspector shows up,” Gustafson says.

### Common Sense Maintenance

Golden Valley’s Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC) stresses a common-sense approach to maintaining your home. A few times per year, homeowners should walk around the perimeter of their house and take note of anything that looks like it needs some repair or cleaning.

“If it doesn’t look right, it probably isn’t right,” Gustafson says. For a basic guideline of what to look for, use the checklist on the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/maintenance/checklist.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/maintenance/checklist.php).

When it comes to seeing violations on your neighbors’ homes, Gustafson adds, try talking to them first before calling the City. Maybe they didn’t realize there was a problem.

“We always encourage residents to talk to their neighbors if they can,” he says. “Eighty percent of the time, folks just don’t know they have a violation.”

### Inspectors Are There To Help

When the City does need to get involved, inspectors would rather help people out than write citations.

“We don’t come over like storm troopers,” says Roger McCabe, building inspector. “We try to talk with everybody face-to-face. It’s all about education.”

Gustafson encourages residents to call him at 763-593-8074 if they have any questions about the property maintenance code, or if they need more guidance when it comes to fixing a maintenance issue.

In fact, upon request, the City will provide a free inspection and expert advice on what, if anything, needs to be taken care of. You have nothing to lose—citations are not issued during voluntary inspections.

On the other hand, if you procrastinate on home maintenance, not only are you diminishing the housing values of the entire neighborhood, you’re also facing a hefty fine. When the City issues a violation, there is a specified time given to fix the problem. The fee for not complying starts at \$100 and moves up to \$500 for the third and fourth noncompliance, after which it is referred to the City attorney.



"I always tell people I'm more than willing to work with them if they need more time on a project," Gustafson says. "They just need to let me know. When I can see that they're making a serious attempt at remedying the problem, I'll extend the deadline."

A good resource for homeowners, whether they are do-it-yourselfers or are looking to hire an expert, is the **Feb 23 Home Remodeling Fair** (see page 16). It features more than 100 exhibitors, City booths where inspectors are on hand to answer questions, and free seminars, including one entitled "Calm Your Chaos: Develop a Home Maintenance Plan."

## Majority Of Violations Are Simple Fixes

Usually, the issue that needs remedying is as simple as cleaning up a yard. Litter and garbage, including bags of leaves left to pile up, and improperly stored vehicles, like boats on the lawn, are the source of most violations.

But whatever the violation is, generally, people don't argue about a write-up, Gustafson says. They're typically aware something needs to be done but haven't been motivated yet.

Questions? Contact Property Maintenance Inspector Dave Gustafson at 763-593-8074. 🌿

BEFORE



AFTER



## OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

**2013 Winner Transforms "Embarrassing" Bathroom**  
(For information on entering the 2014 contest, see page 16)

Nobody likes to tell their neighbors: "I have the ugliest bathroom in the west Metro."

"That's not exactly an honor," says Susan Bloyer, of St Louis Park, winner of last year's Operation Rescue Room contest. "But you don't always have your dream house when you're on a budget. We did the best we could when we bought the house, and there was one particular element of it that had not been done well."

And that was the home's only bathroom.

Bloyer lived with it for several years. The uneven fixtures. The hole in the wall-tiles leading to water damage. The broken towel racks. The unfinished bathtub. The out-of-date toilet and sink. And the color that just never

worked for her. It took time, but she saved money to remodel the room, and with the \$1,000 cash prize from winning Operation Rescue Room, she finally had the budget to make it happen.

"It's more than 100 percent better now," Bloyer says. "I'm much happier with it now." The wall damage is fixed. The room looks new again. And it's been modernized with a dual-flush toilet and water-conserving shower head.

"I'm sure in 10 years it will look dated again, but that's life," Bloyer says. For now, she's glad she entered the contest and recommends others do as well.

"Get over your embarrassment and just do it," she says.



# Neighborhood Watch



## A Cornerstone Of Crime Prevention

It takes more than well-maintained homes to make a neighborhood attractive. Safety and security are also important, and there's nothing like a good, solid Neighborhood Watch program to help things along.

When neighbors work together with police, it creates the best crime fighting team around, says Joanne Paul, crime prevention specialist.

"Neighborhood Watch is an integral part to keeping our crime rate low," Paul says. "Residents know better than anyone else what kind of activity goes on in their neighborhood."

Neighborhood Watch educates citizens about local crime trends, criminals, and how to respond to suspicious behavior, and encourages better communication among neighbors. Simple, cooperative vigilance and an ongoing dialogue with the police department make a huge difference.

"A few years ago, we interviewed a prolific burglar who said that if someone in a neighborhood made eye contact with him, he would leave and go to a new location," Paul says. "Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and most effective crime prevention tools."

### Block Captain Meeting

Thursday, March 6 | 7 pm  
Police Department Training Room  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

### Neighborhood Watch Meetings

Thursday, May 1 | 7 pm  
City Hall Council Chambers  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Tuesday, Oct 21 | 7 pm  
Police Department Training Room  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

## C F F E E WITH A COP

Thursday, Feb 20 | 3–5 pm  
Byerly's Golden Valley, 5725 Duluth St  
(coffee by Caribou)

A new community outreach program by the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) will debut Thursday, Feb 20, 3–5 pm, at Byerly's, 5725 Duluth St. *Coffee With A Cop* encourages citizens to become familiar with the officers who serve their community, ask questions, and express concerns.

### Getting Started

If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) at 763-593-8079 or [police@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:police@goldenvalleymn.gov) and arrange an introduction meeting between neighbors and police.

Once the GVPD receives a copy of your block map, Neighborhood Watch street signs will be posted in your neighborhood. Provided by the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund, these signs warn criminals that your Neighborhood Watch group immediately reports all suspicious activity and communicates with the police.

### Resources

All Neighborhood Watch members also receive the Neighborhood WatchBlog e-newsletter, which provides information about safety and security issues, prevention programs, and available resources.

Other City crime prevention resources include an online interactive crime map (go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/maps/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/maps/index.php)) and emailed crime alerts (sign up at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/index.php).)

Every other month, one or two Golden Valley police officers will host a *Coffee With A Cop* gathering at a public location (ie, McDonald's/Starbucks/Byerly's) in town. Days of the week and times will vary to ensure a good mix of scheduling.

There will be no formal presentations—neighbors are invited to drop in any time during the two-hour gathering to chat with an officer and other staff. Community members can discuss and learn about neighborhood issues, traffic concerns, crime prevention, and how to connect with the GVPD through social media and other technological tools.



# GVFD Offers Free Safety Classes

## Topics Cover Severe Weather Awareness And CPR

It's easy to think being caught in severe weather or witnessing a cardiac arrest are things that only happen to other people. According to Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker, such assumptions put you at risk.

If you don't take these things seriously, you're less likely to plan for them and, therefore, more likely to be caught unprepared, Baker says.

That's why he encourages everyone to attend the Golden Valley Fire Department's free classes on severe weather awareness and adult CPR and AED (automated external defibrillators). Both are held in March at Golden Valley's Public Safety Building (see box below for details).

### Severe Weather Awareness

"Severe weather does happen, and taking an hour out of your evening to get educated about it will pay off in the long run," says Baker.

Some of the biggest mistakes people make, Baker says, are ignoring warning signs that severe weather is coming or imminent and not having a plan for what to do should you be caught outside in such weather.

"If you're coaching a team outside, do you know where the nearest shelter is? Do you have a key? These are things to think about prior to taking kids out there," Baker says. "And this class will better prepare you for those situations."

The storm-spotter training course is taught by Brad Winger, a certified National Weather Service Instructor with 23 years of experience spotting and chasing storms. It shows what to look for when observing thunderstorms and covers some local severe weather climatology and basic severe weather meteorology. Attendees will be certified weather spotters upon completion of the class.




### Hands-Only CPR and AED Awareness

There are about 385,000 sudden cardiac arrests each year in the USA. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the country. Cardiac arrests, however, are much less likely to be fatal when CPR is administered and a defibrillator is at hand.

If you learn proper CPR, choking response, and defibrillator operation, you may end up saving the life of a co-worker, family member, or even a stranger, says Baker. All it takes is an hour.

These classes are offered through the City about once every two years.

No previous CPR training is needed to sign up. And even if you've had CPR training before, a refresher never hurts, Baker says. Some CPR best practices have changed in the last few years and people with previous training may need to update their technique. 



### SKYWARN: Severe Weather Awareness Class

**Monday, March 10**  
**6:30–8:30 pm**  
**Golden Valley Public Safety Building**  
**7800 Golden Valley Road**



### Hands-Only CPR And Defibrillator (AED) Training

**Thursday, March 13**  
**6:30 & 8 pm (two sessions)**  
**Golden Valley Public Safety Building**  
**7800 Golden Valley Road**

To sign up for these classes, RSVP to Stephen Baker at [sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov) or 763-593-3977.

# Winter Street Maintenance

## City Explains Snow Removal Procedures

After snow events, the City's public works crews work methodically to clear local streets and sidewalks of snow safely and efficiently and, each winter, the City responds to residents who wonder why residential streets are not maintained to a level of bare pavement like motorists would see on County or State highways. The City's snow and ice removal policy sets forth its approach and standards for snow removal and winter maintenance activities.

"Snow removal is all about balancing expectations, reality, economics, and environmental concerns," explains Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy. "Golden Valley does not have a bare pavement policy because traffic volumes and speeds don't warrant it on the local streets we maintain. Furthermore, there is a desire to limit the amount of chemicals placed on local streets because of environmental impacts to water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and streams. However, other jurisdictions that manage streets with higher volumes and faster speeds need a bare pavement policy to protect the safety of the traveling public."


Freeways carry around 150,000 vehicles a day traveling at 55 miles per hour (mph) or faster. County State Aid highways, such as Winnetka Ave, Douglas Dr, and Medicine Lake Rd, among others, currently carry about 8,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. The majority of Golden Valley's local streets, with a speed limit of 30 mph, carry less than 1,000 vehicles per day. Therefore, the techniques to manage snow and ice must vary to fit the circumstance.

"The first priority is keeping roads safe for driving, and to some people that means bare pavement," says Bert Tracy, Golden Valley's Public Works maintenance manager. That expectation could be influenced by the maintenance of metro area freeways and County roads.

To keep traffic moving, City crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. State and County roads (Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, etc) are maintained by those agencies, not by the City.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads
- school and pedestrian crossings
- bridge decks
- arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by public works or police staff

For more information about snow removal in Golden Valley, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php) or call Public Works Street Maintenance at 763-593-8081. 

## Watch Mail For Property Valuation Notices


The law requires that properties be inspected every five years, inside and out, and the City of Golden Valley contracts with professionals from Hennepin County to appraise the market value of your home.

Hennepin County assessors inspect one-fifth of properties in the city each year and compare sales within the city to determine value for your property. The assessor analyzes actual sales of property in the city, reviewing last year's open market sales to determine the estimated market value of similar properties.

Jan 2 of each year sets the market value for the upcoming budget cycle. For example, 2014 estimated market values included for

the assessment on Jan 2, 2014 are based on home sales that occurred between October 2012 and September 2013. These are used to calculate the tax payable in 2015.

Hennepin County mails property valuation notices in early March. If you have questions about the assessed value of your home, you can call the assessors at the number listed on the valuation notice any time after you receive it.

For more information, contact the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at 763-593-8025, or visit the Hennepin County website at [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us), click on "Residents," then "Home & Property," then scroll to "Property Information Search." 



# Inflow And Infiltration (I/I)

## Golden Valley Makes Progress Over Past Decade

For the past 10 years or so, the City of Golden Valley and its property owners, along with many metro communities, have been working to reduce excessive clear water flows into the regional wastewater system. Called Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), it is an environmental and financial burden to the entire region, costing about \$300–\$400 million annually. Golden Valley's aggressive approach to fixing the problem is showing positive results.

Most of Golden Valley's sanitary sewer system was installed in the late 1950s–early 1960s, and cracks, joint separation, and even fully collapsed sections of the clay pipe are becoming more common as tree roots, poor soils, and age take their toll. The City has invested millions in rehabilitating the public sanitary sewer during street reconstruction projects, including lining and replacing sanitary sewer mains, sealing manholes, and installing new watertight manhole covers.

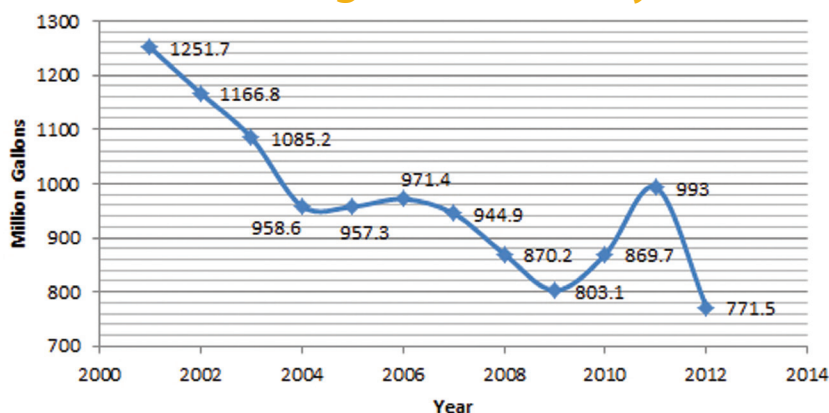
Golden Valley property owners are also doing their part. Since adoption of the Point of Sale Ordinance in 2007, they have been getting televised inspections of their private sanitary sewer lines and making repairs to become I/I compliant. Today, one-third of the private sanitary sewer lines in Golden Valley are I/I compliant; however, many still have issues such as illicit sump pump connections, joint separation, and cracks throughout the line. Some property owners are rehabilitating their sewer lines with cured-in-place-pipe, which can be installed from one small excavation in the front yard and can rehabilitate the entire sanitary sewer lateral without disturbing the City street or private landscaping.

Over the past few years the City has recorded a steady decline in sanitary sewer flows leaving Golden Valley (see graph at right). Continued maintenance

on this infrastructure will benefit the City economically and environmentally by lowering charges from the regional wastewater treatment plant, preventing overcapacity sewage discharge into the Mississippi River, and preventing costly sewer backups into residential basements.

For a limited time, grants are available to help property owners fund I/I repairs (see story below). The City also has a program to help residents finance these repairs by assessing costs over five years. For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 📶

## Annual Sanitary Sewage Flows Leaving Golden Valley



## Financial Help Now Available For Some I/I Project Costs

Grants are now available to assist property owners who are rehabilitating their sanitary sewer lines as required by Golden Valley's Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) program.

In December, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) division approved a \$1 million grant from the State Clean Water Fund to assist property owners who choose to fully rehabilitate their private sanitary sewer line. The grant will cover one-third of the actual costs to rehabilitate I/I related defects in the privately owned sanitary sewer line, up to a maximum reimbursement of \$2,000. Grants will be issued first-come, first-served until all of the funds are spent.

### Who Qualifies?

Golden Valley private property owners eligible to apply for the grant include those who had their sanitary sewer lines inspected by the City and have fully rehabilitated them after July 1, 2013, as well as residents who receive a City I/I inspection and make all I/I required repairs to their sewer line before the funds run out.

### Grant Application Process

To submit an I/I grant application to the City for approval by MCES, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/mces-ii-grant.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/mces-ii-grant.php) or call 763-593-3962. 📶

# Don't Drive Under The Influence Of Distraction

We all know driving drunk is wrong. But many of us fail to realize that driving while distracted can be just as dangerous.

In fact, distracted drivers cause more accidents than intoxicated drivers. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, driver inattention accounts for about 12 percent of single-vehicle accidents and roughly 23 percent of all multi-vehicle crashes, with drivers under age 20 having the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.


This is why, in 2012, the State of Minnesota outlawed reading or writing texts while driving and banned any cell phone use for teens driving during their permit or provisional license stages (see article below).

But the problem goes beyond cell phones. Distracted or inattentive driving is a factor in one in four crashes each year, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Common distractions include turning knobs on a radio, tending to children in the backseat, or eating or drinking while behind the wheel.

The Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) offers the following tips for managing common driving distractions:

- Turn your phone off or switch to silent mode before you get in the car.
- Set up a message to tell callers you are driving and you'll get back to them as soon as possible.

- If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area first or ask a passenger to make the call for you.
- Don't ever text, surf the web, or read email while driving. Citations for texting while driving are moving violations with fines and will count against your insurance rates.
- Review maps and directions before you start to drive. If you need to review maps/directions when you are on the road, ask a passenger to help or pull over to a safe location.
- To avoid distractions, always secure children and pets properly before you start to drive.
- Pull over to a safe location to address situations with your children in the car.
- Don't smoke, eat, drink, read, or do any other activity that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

The biggest risk of distracted driving is a crash that could result in injury to yourself, your passengers, or others. In addition, remember that seat belts are required at all times and driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher will face DWI laws and sanctions. 



## TEEN DRIVING RESTRICTIONS PROMOTE SAFETY

Inexperience and distracted driving put teen drivers at risk on the road, which is why Minnesota Statute 171.055 restricts teen driving in stages. Violating the law is a misdemeanor. Here are the highlights.

### First Six Months of Licensure

Teen drivers may not carry more than one passenger under the age of 20 who is not a member of their immediate family, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Teens cannot drive between midnight and 5 am except when:


- accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older
- driving between home and a job
- driving to/from home and a school event for which the school has not provided transportation
- driving for employment purposes

### Second Six Months of Licensure

Teen drivers may not carry more than three passengers under the age of 20 who are not members of their immediate family, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### From Licensure Until Age 18

It's illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cell phone, whether hand-held or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency. It is also illegal for persons under age 21 to drive after consuming any amount of alcohol. Teen drivers who violate this law or who have their licenses revoked because of a crash cannot regain a license until age 18.

Teens can qualify for a full-privileges driver's license at age 18 only if they have a safe driving record. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website at [www.dps.mn.gov](http://www.dps.mn.gov) and type "teen driving" in the search box. 





# UPCOMING (free) events

PHOTO BY SHANNON DANE, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2013

## Operation Rescue Room Contest Deadline

Sun, Feb 16 | 4:30 pm (see page 16)

## COFFEE WITH A COP

Thur, Feb 20 | 3–5 pm (see page 10)

Check out the Golden Valley Police Department's newest community outreach program.

## West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 23 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm (see page 16)

## Neighborhood Watch Block Captain's Meeting

Thur, March 6 | 7 pm (see page 10)

## GOLDEN VALLEY BRIDGE BUILDERS EVENT

Sat, March 8 | 10 am–noon

Fireplace Room, Wirth Park Chalet  
1301 Theodore Wirth Parkway

Event features a group discussion, a presentation by Minneapolis Park Historian David Smith, and a tour of the chalet. The group discussion breakout sessions allow individuals to contribute by self-organizing around issues and ideas that matter to them.

Bridge Builders is a citizen-led volunteer organization that connects people to improve the community or share similar interests. For more information, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/bridgebuilders/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/bridgebuilders/index.php).

## SKYWARN: Severe Weather Awareness Class

Mon, March 10 | 6:30–8:30 pm (see page 11)

## Hands-Only CPR & Defibrillator (AED) Training

Thurs, March 13 | 6:30 & 8 pm (see page 11)

## CARING YOUTH RECOGNITION

Thur, March 20 | 7 pm

Minnetonka Community Center

Sponsored by the cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts, this annual event celebrates the contributions of young people who positively affect our communities and who have given outstanding service. For more information, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/caringyouth/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/caringyouth/index.php).

## ALOHA SPRING DANCE FOR GRADES 5–7

Fri, March 21 | 7–9:30 pm

Crystal Community Center

**\$5 by March 20, \$8 at the door**

Dancing, contests, and more! Wear your Hawaiian print shirt and be eligible for a special drawing. Co-sponsored with Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Snacks and beverages available for purchase.

## Run The Valley

Sat, April 12 | 7:45 am (see page 3)

More event information at: [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar)

## STATE OF THE CITY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Tues, March 18 | 6:30 pm  
Fri, March 28 | 7:30 am  
City Hall Council Chambers  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. All members of the community are invited to

attend. Replays can be viewed on GV 16, the City's government access cable channel, and on the City website.



7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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## Home Remodeling Fair Seminars (free)

- Luxury Vinyl Flooring
- Ceramic Tiling Demonstration
- Remodeling Strategies for Aging in Place
- Bath Remodeling 2014: Small Innovations to Total Renovations
- Calm Your Chaos: Develop a Home Maintenance Plan
- Whole Yard Makeover
- Landscapes: Curb Appeal
- Kitchen Remodeling 2014: Small Innovations to Total Renovations
- New Trends in Interior Design
- Tips to Successful Bathroom Remodeling
- Decks and Porches
- Organic Lawn Care
- Tips to Successful Kitchen Remodeling

## HOME REMODELING FAIR RETURNS FEB 23



The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair has something for everyone, from the first-time do-it-yourselfer to those looking to hire experts. It's set for Feb 23, 10:30 am–3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions in the western suburbs, will feature seminars and demonstrations (see sidebar) and more than 100 exhibitors, including architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. The Idea Center features Operation Rescue Room (see below) and “Ask the Pro,” a chance at no-obligation advice from architects and interior designers (bring your photos, sketches, and questions). Food concessions and children's activities will be available in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, and Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park Community Education. Co-sponsors are Bluestem Construction; Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC; DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Durst & Gans Building Corporation; Great Lakes Windows & Siding Co; Handyman Matters; J.W. Williams Construction, Inc; Masterpiece Landscaping Ltd; Neighborhood Building & Remodeling Co; North Prairie Tileworks; Showcase Renovations Incorporated; and SicoraDesign/Build.

For more information, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com) or contact the City of Golden Valley at 763-593-8099.

### OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

*Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county?*

**The 2014 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.**

The second annual Operation Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 23, 2014. Last year, Susan Bloyer of St Louis Park won the contest and used the money to fix up her bathroom (see photos at right and story on page 9).

Get rules and entry forms at [www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue). Deadline to enter is Feb 16, 2014.

[www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue)



**From this...**



**to this...**



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

